

W. Bill Booth
Chair
Idaho

James A. Yost
Idaho

Tom Karier
Washington

Dick Wallace
Washington



Bruce A. Measure
Vice-Chair
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

Melinda S. Eden
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes
Oregon

December 22, 2009

Mr. P. Marc LaFrance
US DOE Technology Development Manager
United States Department of Energy Office of Building Technology
1J-018, EE-2J
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

Dear Mr. LaFrance;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marc".

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Regional Technical Forum wishes to express its support for your initiative to provide online data on the price and availability of high performance (R-5) window products. The Council's Regional Technical Forum (RTF) was established over a decade ago to assist the Bonneville Power Administration, Northwest public and private utilities and public benefits charge administrators identify energy savings opportunities, evaluate cost-effectiveness, establish consistent measurement and verification protocols and harmonize technical specifications. Pursuant to this role, the RTF recently analyzed the cost-effectiveness of savings from high performance window products. We concluded that products with U-factors of 0.25 and below were cost-effective in both new construction and retrofit applications. As a result, the RTF is currently modifying its program specifications for residential weatherization to reflect this finding.

However, adoption of a program technical specification is only the first step in implementation. Program operators and contractors need ready access to information regarding the price and availability of required products. They also need to be able to acquire those products at competitive prices. We believe that a DOE initiative that results in a successful volume purchase of high performance windows along with online information regarding the suppliers of these products will increase the probability that these windows will be competitively priced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom".

Tom Eckman,
Manager, Conservation Resources